

Discussion Questions- *The Life You Save May be Your Own*, Flannery O'Connor

1. Where and why does Tom leave Lucynell after they are married?
2. Why does Tom want to fix Lucynell's car?
3. Explain who Tom T. Shiftlet is.
4. What can you tell is Lucynell's problem? How do you know?
5. Why does mother Lucynell want Shiftlet to marry her daughter?
6. Why does Lucynell want her daughter to learn the word "sugarpie"?
7. What proposition does Lucynell make with Shiftlet concerning her daughter?
8. What is *ironic* about the narrator's comment that "he (Shiftlet) felt too that a man had a responsibility to others and he kept his eye out for a hitchhiker"?
9. Where are the **allusions** to religious symbols? Explain.
10. What is the **symbolism** in these allusions? What is the symbolism with his name?
11. What is the significance of the peculiar clouds and the storm pursuing Mr. Shiftlet toward Mobile at the end of the story? Symbolism? Explain.
12. Explain the humor in this text and how it functions within the short story.
13. What is the significance of the title?
14. Is Shiftlet a Modernist Hero? How? Why? Explain how you know what you know.
15. What effect does O'Connor create with the story ending the way it does?
16. How does this short story compare to "A Rose for Emily" with regard to plot, setting, characters, message, etc.?

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